

# Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

April 23, 2023

Bulletin art today was made in conjunction with DALL-E artificial intelligence.



Greenwood Forest  
Baptist Church

an inclusive  
community  
of faith

# Welcome

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We are so glad you've chosen to join us this week. Greenwood Forest Baptist Church is an inclusive community of faith, which means we welcome, affirm, and include all God's people in their diversity of genders, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, ages, abilities, and backgrounds. We are each beloved by God and we are happy to welcome you to our church exactly as you are.

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## REMINDERS



Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers. There is also a glider in the back of the sanctuary if you need to rock your little ones.



Hearing assistance devices are available at the back of the sanctuary along with a transcript of the sermon.



Services are livestreamed and you may end up on camera.



Gender-neutral, single-occupant bathrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary in the Narthex.



[gfbccary.org](http://gfbccary.org)



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# Announcements Church Events and Updates

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## ***Business Meeting***

### ***Reminder***

There will be a Business Meeting on April 30 at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall. Relevant topics were discussed at the April 16 Town Hall and materials will be available for review.

## ***Freedom School***

We'll be hosting a special Faith Formation series on faith and freedom movements April 23, May 7, 14, 21, and June 4. The curriculum is designed to prepare Freedom Riders for their trip this summer, but everyone in the church is invited to attend if they are interested! Freedom School will meet in Room C221.

## ***Freedom Ride Easter Egg***

### ***Fundraiser***

In the Narthex, you'll find 100 Easter Eggs that are a part of raising funds for our Freedom Riders' trip to Alabama this summer. Here's how it works: all the eggs have a dollar amount in them between \$1 and \$100 (no repeated amounts). Draw an egg and donate that money to the Freedom Ride at [gfbccary.org/give](http://gfbccary.org/give) or by check. Either way write "Freedom Ride Egg" in the memo line. But wait, there's more! Each egg contains a prize from a Freedom Ride sticker and some candy up to a GFBC mug or a Freedom Ride t-shirt. You can donate more than once to increase your shot at a bigger prize!

## ***The Greenwood App***

A greenwood is a forest that is filled with life and abundance and that is what we hope for in your spiritual life. As a tool for you, we've developed an app called The Greenwood that you can use on your spiritual journey. The Greenwood includes most of the practices and disciplines we explored together on the Discipleship Retreat this year, daily prayer for each day of the week, and access to all of our available discipleship resources. The Greenwood is available in the Google Play store and coming soon to the Apple App Store (Apple users can access a preview right now at [gfbccary.org/app](http://gfbccary.org/app)).

## ***Fellowship Lunch (4/30)***

We'll have another Fellowship Meal after worship on April 30 hosted by Franz and Jill Bryant. The cost for the meal is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids with proceeds going to the Organ Fund. We hope to see you there!

## ***Dinner Theater (5/19)***

You are cordially invited to be our guest at a special night of music and fine food at GFBC on May 19 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall! Steve Denning (head chef) and Stephen Stacks (sous chef) will prepare a multiple course meal and the evening will feature a Broadway Revue put on by B.J. Facemire and the GFBC Music Ministry. Tickets will be \$75/plate and all proceeds will go to the organ fund as we prepare to complete our long-awaited renovation. You can purchase tickets at [gfbccary.org/dinnertheater](http://gfbccary.org/dinnertheater). Do not miss this incredible evening—register now!

# Community Notes Prayer Requests and Giving



## PRAY

*Please keep in prayer these members of our community and their friends and family. To add a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Names rotate off and can be re-added upon request.*

Nell Allen  
Dan Barboriak (friend of Valerie Brooks)  
Gilles Bikindou  
Valerie Brooks  
Katie Buchanan (Pat and Tom Brooks' niece)  
Scott Davenport (friend of the Biser family)  
Elaine Dodson  
Vanna Fox  
James Mark Frazier (Sue Hughes' brother)  
Diedre Scofield Queen (friend of Valerie Brooks)  
Fred Seeger  
Lee and Patti Webb  
Our partners at Ebenezer Baptist in Cuba



## GIVING

*All of the ministries of Greenwood Forest Baptist Church are supported by members of our community like you. Thank you! Supporting us is easy. You can:*

- Give online at [gfbccary.org/give](http://gfbccary.org/give)
- Place your gift in the offering plate before or after worship.
- Set up an automated bank draft through the church office.
- Set up a recurring gift through your bank's "bill pay" function.

A monthly finance update is available in the weekly church email. If you're not receiving our weekly email and would like to, please contact the church office.

### **Monthly Ministry Highlight:**

#### **Media Center**

*The Greenwood Forest Media Center is a curated collection of progressive and inclusive Christian theology. If you've wanted to dive deeper into any special topics we've talked about in the past several years, we have books for you! You can reserve books online at [gfbccary.org/mediacenter](http://gfbccary.org/mediacenter) using your username (first initial and last name). On Sunday, it will be ready for you in the Narthex!*

*Your gifts to Greenwood Forest make this ministry possible!*

# Order of Worship Third Sunday of Easter

✝ This icon indicates an invitation to stand or express reverence however you see fit.

📖 This icon indicates a worship aid is available in the righthand column.

🎵 Hymns and song lyrics are available in the songbook following the Order of Worship.

## Chiming of the Hour

**Prelude** | *Air (from Water Music)* | G.F. Handel

**Welcome to Worship** | *Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks*

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed!**

**Passing of the Peace** 📖

✝ **Preparation for Worship** | *Christ is Alive (vv. 1-3; pg. 7)*

**Call to Worship (Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19)**

*Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome*

I love the Lord,

**Because God has heard my voice and my supplications.**

Because God inclined an ear to me,

**Therefore I will call on God as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

**I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called on the name of the Lord:

**"O Lord, I pray, save my life!"**

What shall I return for all the Lord's bounty to me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,**

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people.

**Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of faithful ones.**

O Lord, I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.

**You have loosed my bonds.**

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice

Today's color is **white**, representing the glory of the resurrection.

## The Passing of the Peace

The passing of the peace is a symbolic enactment of the reconciling love and mercy of God in our midst. We express it through a peace sign, a handshake, a wave, or many other expressions of peace. Be mindful and considerate of others' desire for physical space or distance.

## Prayer in Worship

We use many kinds of prayers in worship. The Call to Worship is a communal prayer using call and response. The Invocation is a single individual inviting (or invoking) God into our worship this morning. The Prayers of the People uses intercessory prayer to ask God to come to the world's aid. The benediction is a blessing offered over those gathered in worship.

## **And call on the name of the Lord.**

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all the people,

## **In the courts of the house of the Lord,**

In your midst, O Jerusalem.

## **Praise the Lord!**

**Invocation** | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

† **Hymn** | *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (pg. 8)*

**Offertory Prayer** | *Anthony Warren*

† **Doxology** | *Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN* 📖

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

O praise God. Alleluia!

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

O praise God! O praise God!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**The Prayers of the People** | *Rev. Dr. Stacks* 📖

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it**

**is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and**

**forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who**

**trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but**

**deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the**

**power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading** | *Acts 12:11-16* | *Rev. Spears-Newsome*

The word of God for us, the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | *The Joyful Eastertide (pg. 9)*

**Sermon** | *Off the Beaten Path with Rhoda* | *Johnny Jackson*

† **Hymn** | *Break Every Chain (pg. 9)* 📖

**Benediction** | *Rev. Dr. Stacks*

**Postlude** | *Hallelujah, Christ Arose* | *arr. Lowry*

## **The Doxology**

A “doxology” is a short hymn that usually praises the Trinity. We sing the doxology as we symbolically present our offerings back to God.

## **The Prayers of the People**

This prayer typically has five parts: a confession, prayers for the earth, prayers for the world, prayers for the church, and prayers for those with needs in our own community.

## **Final Hymn: An Invitation**

During the final hymn, if you'd like to join our community at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, we invite you to come forward to the altar. When you come forward, you'll be greeted by a minister and a deacon who will then introduce you to the congregation after the hymn. Welcome!

Johnny Jackson, our ministerial intern, is preaching this morning.

# Christ is Alive

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4. Wo - men and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.



# O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2. My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
3. Je-sus, the name that calms my fears, that bids my sor-rows cease;  
4. He breaks the power of can-celed sin, He sets the pris-oner free;  
5. He speaks, and lis-tening to His voice, new life the dead re-ceive;  
6. To God all glo-ry, praise, and love be ev-er, ev-er given

the glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of His grace.  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of Thy name.  
'tis mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears; 'tis life and health and peace.  
His blood can make the foul-est clean, His blood a-vailed for me.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.  
by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the church in earth and heaven.

# **Anthem** This Joyful Eastertide

arr. Charles Wood

This joyful Eastertide  
away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the crucified,  
has sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ, that once was slain,  
ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain:  
but now hath Christ arisen!*

My flesh in hope shall rest  
and for a season slumber  
till trump from east to west  
shall wake the dead in number.

Death's flood has lost its chill  
since Jesus crossed the river.  
Lover of souls, from ill  
my passing soul deliver.

# **Hymn** Break Every Chain

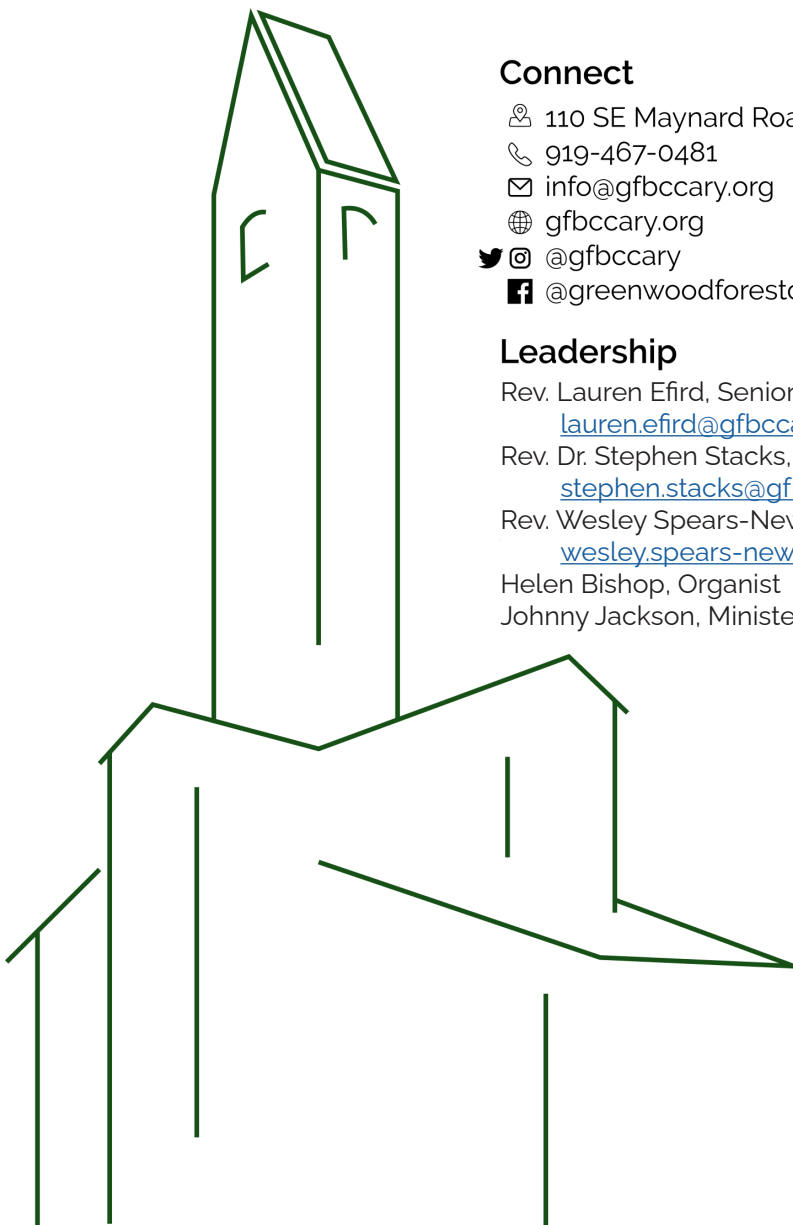
Tasha Cobba Leonard

There is power in the name of Jesus,  
There is power in the name of Jesus,  
There is power in the name of Jesus.  
To break every chain.

All sufficient sacrifice,  
So freely given, such a price for  
Our redemption, heavens gates  
Swing wide.

There's a people rising up,  
There's a people rising up,  
There's a people rising up,  
To break every chain.





## Connect

📍 110 SE Maynard Road Cary, NC 27511

☎ 919-467-0481

✉ info@gfbccary.org

🌐 gfbccary.org

🐦 @gfbccary

📘 @greenwoodforestcary

## Leadership

Rev. Lauren Efird, Senior Pastor

[lauren.efird@gfbccary.org](mailto:lauren.efird@gfbccary.org)

Rev. Dr. Stephen Stacks, Associate Pastor

[stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org](mailto:stephen.stacks@gfbccary.org)

Rev. Wesley Spears-Newsome, Associate Pastor

[wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org](mailto:wesley.spears-newsome@gfbccary.org)

Helen Bishop, Organist

Johnny Jackson, Ministerial Intern

